In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 23 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for supporting a transaction for purchasing a product by a buyer from a vendor, the product having a price, a local currency of the buyer being different from a local currency of the vendor, the buyer communicating with the vendor through a network, the method comprising:

determining an exchange rate of the local currency of the vendor

to the local currency of the buyer;

converting the price of the product from the local currency of

the vendor to the local currency of the buyer to form a

final price according to said exchange rate, such that the

buyer receives information concerning said final price

before a payment transaction is performed;

receiving payment from the buyer for said final price to perform

said payment transaction;

converting said payment from the local currency of the buyer to

the local currency of the vendor to form a converted

payment according to said exchange rate, wherein said

exchange rate is guaranteed at a time of calculating said

final price for the buyer, such that the price in the local

currency of the vendor is guaranteed and such that the

price in the local currency of the buyer is guaranteed, and

is hedged; and

paying the vendor with said converted payment;

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wherein at least said receiving said payment from the buyer, said converting said payment and said paying the vendor are hedged by a hedging enabler process, such that a risk of a change in said exchange rate is hedged.

2.   (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving payment from the buyer includes receiving payment from an account of the buyer in a financial institution, such that said financial institution does not perform said converting said payment from the local currency of the buyer to the local currency of the vendor to form a converted payment.

3.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet.

4.   (Original)   The method of claim 3, wherein the seller has a Web site and the buyer purchases the product through said Web site to form an e-commerce transaction.

5.   (Previously Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said converting the price of the product further comprises:

receiving said exchange rate at said Web site;

converting the price according to said exchange rate to form

        said final price;

constructing a Web page including said final price; and

displaying said Web page to the buyer.

6.   (Previously Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein said converting said payment from the local currency of the buyer to the local currency of the vendor to form a converted payment further comprises:

providing a plurality of currency accounts, each currency account having a different type of currency; and

transferring an amount of said payment from a currency account containing the local currency of the buyer to a currency account containing the local currency of the vendor to form said converted payment.

7.   (Previously Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said transferring an amount of said payment is performed for a plurality of payments from the buyer to the vendor, such that a plurality of converted payments are formed.

8.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein said exchange rate is guaranteed for a predetermined period of time.

9.   (Previously Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein said determining an exchange rate includes determining a plurality of exchange rates, each of said plurality of exchange rates being guaranteed for a separate predetermined period of time, wherein said converting the price of the product further comprises converting the price of the product to a plurality of payments for being paid by the buyer at a plurality of separate points in time, each payment being converted according to one of said plurality of exchange rates, such that said receiving payment from the buyer is performed repeatedly for each payment by the buyer.

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10. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the vendor purchases a plurality of products from a plurality of suppliers, each supplier being paid in a separate local currency of said supplier, and wherein the vendor sells said plurality of products to a plurality of buyers, each buyer paying in a separate local currency of said buyer, such that said determining an exchange rate includes determining a first exchange rate for paying said supplier by the vendor and determining a second exchange rate for paying the vendor by said buyer, each of said first and said second exchange rates being guaranteed for a separate predetermined period of time.

11. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

combining payments from a plurality of transactions for each

currency account; and

purchasing additional currency for each currency account in a

FOREX market.

12. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein said purchasing additional currency includes prior hedging of each currency in each currency account.

13. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining an exchange rate further comprises:

receiving said exchange rate from a FOREX market rate; and

transmitting said exchange rate to the vendor.

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14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said exchange rate is set for a predetermined period of time.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein transmitting said exchange rate to the seller further comprises automatically detecting the preferred currency of the buyer.

16. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said transmitting said exchange rate further comprises automatically detecting the local currency of the buyer.

17. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving payment from the buyer and said paying the vendor with said converted payment are performed through a trustee, such that said trustee receives payment from the buyer and gives payment to the vendor.

19. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein said converting said payment from the local currency of the buyer to the local currency of the vendor to form a converted payment further comprises:

aggregating payments from a plurality of buyers;

exchanging said payments through a currency exchange market,

to provide funds in the local currency of the vendor; and

transferring said payment to the vendor from said funds in the

local currency of the vendor on said settlement date.

20.   (Previously Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein said determining an exchange rate includes adjusting said exchange rate according to a transaction fee, for performing said exchanging said payments through a currency exchange market, to provide funds in the local currency of the vendor.

21.   (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving payment from the buyer is performed by a third party payment clearance mechanism to receive payment from the buyer.

22.   (Previously Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein a plurality of third party payment clearance mechanisms are available for receiving payment from the buyer, such that the vendor selects one of said plurality of third party payment clearance mechanisms for said receiving payment from the buyer.

23.   (Currently Amended) A method for performing online hedging at a point of sale for a transaction for purchasing a product by a buyer from a vendor, the product having a price, a local currency of the buyer being different from a local currency of the vendor, the buyer communicating with the vendor through a network, the method comprising:

   determining an exchange rate of the local currency of the vendor

        to the local currency of the buyer;

   converting the price of the product from the local currency of

        the vendor to the local currency of the buyer to form a

        final price according to said exchange rate, such that the

buyer receives information concerning said final price

before a payment transaction is performed;

hedging said payment transaction <u>by a hedging enabler process,</u>

<u>such that hedging is performed at the point of sale</u>;

receiving payment from the buyer for said final price to perform

said payment transaction;

converting said payment from the local currency of the buyer to

the local currency of the vendor to form a converted

payment according to said exchange rate; and

paying the vendor with said converted payment.

24. (Currently Amended) A system for supporting a transaction for

purchasing a product by a buyer from a vendor, the product having a price, a local

currency of the buyer being different from a local currency of the vendor, the system

comprising:

(a) a currency server for receiving an exchange rate from the local currency

of the buyer to the local currency of the vendor;

(b) a vendor server for operation by the vendor, said vendor server

receiving said exchange rate from said currency server and said vendor

server converting the price from the local currency of the vendor to the

local currency of the buyer to form a final price, said vendor server

providing a Web page containing information about the product and

said final price;

(c) a Web browser for interaction with the buyer, said Web browser being

operated by a buyer computational device, said buyer computational

device being connected to said vendor server through the network, such

that said Web browser displays said Web page and receives financial

information from the buyer for purchasing the product according to said

final price, said financial information being sent to said vendor server;

and

(d) a central managing entity for receiving said financial information from

said vendor server and for ~~establishing~~ receiving said exchange rate

from currency server~~between the local currency of the buyer and the~~

~~local currency of the vendor~~, said central managing entity comprising a

hedging enabler process, and said central managing entity receiving

payment from the buyer in the local currency of the buyer, said central

managing entity exchanging said payment to the local currency of the

vendor, and said central managing entity paying the vendor, such that a

transaction between the vendor and the buyer is hedged by said ~~central~~

~~managing entity~~hedging enabler process.

25. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein payment from the buyer to the

vendor is handled by a third party payment clearance service, wherein a risk to said

third party payment clearance service is also hedged by said hedging enabler process.

26. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said hedging enabler process

comprises a central managing entity, said central managing entity also handling

payment from the buyer to the vendor.

27. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein payment from the buyer to the vendor is handled by a third party payment clearance service, wherein a risk to said third party payment clearance service is also hedged by said hedging enabler process.

28. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said hedging enabler process comprises a central managing entity, said central managing entity also handling payment from the buyer to the vendor.

29. (New) A method for supporting a transaction for purchasing a product by a buyer from a vendor, the product having a price, a local currency of the buyer being different from a local currency of the vendor, the buyer communicating with the vendor through a network, the method comprising:

determining an exchange rate of the local currency of the vendor

to the local currency of the buyer;

converting the price of the product from the local currency of

the vendor to the local currency of the buyer to form a

final price according to said exchange rate, such that the

buyer receives information concerning said final price

before a payment transaction is performed;

receiving payment from the buyer for said final price to perform

said payment transaction;

converting said payment from the local currency of the buyer to

the local currency of the vendor to form a converted

payment according to said exchange rate, wherein said

exchange rate is guaranteed at a time of calculating said

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final price for the buyer, such that the price in the local

currency of the vendor is guaranteed and such that the

price in the local currency of the buyer is guaranteed; and

paying the vendor with said converted payment;

wherein hedging is performed for the period from said determining said

exchange rate to said paying the vendor such that a risk of a change in said exchange

rate is hedged.